

Message Text

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60

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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R 220710Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6857

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 12427

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PDEV ID

SUBJECT: SUHARTO DENIES ANY SPECIAL PRIVILEGES FOR HIS FAMILY

REF: NEWSOM/LIEM BIAN KIE MEMCON OF JULY 13, 1976 (NOTAL)

1. BOTH ENGLISH- AND INDONESIAN-LANGUAGE PRESS HAVE GIVEN PROMINENT ATTENTION TO SEPTEMBER 21 PRESIDENTIAL INSTRUCTION TO CABINET MINISTERS AND NON-DEPARTMENTAL INSTITUTES WHICH STATES, INTER ALIA, "I HAVE NEVER GIVEN AND WILL NEVER GIVE SPECIAL FAVORS TO MY OR MY WIFE'S FAMILIES OT THOSE CLAIMING TO BE MY KIN...." PRESIDENTIAL INSTRUCTION ATTACKED RUMORS "BLOWN UP BY IRRESPONSIBLE PEOPLE IN THE LOCAL AND FOREIGN PRESS" AND ADDED THAT "SUCH RUMORS ... WILL CREATE RESTLENESS AMONG THE PEOPLE AND WEAKEN THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE NATIONAL LEADER."

2. THE INSTRUCTION GOES ON TO SAY THAT MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S FAMILY SHOULD BE GIVEN TREATMENT AS COMMON
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CITIZENS ACCORDING TO EXISTING LAWS, AND PERSONS ATTEMPT-

ING TO EXERT PRESSURE THROUGH CLAIMS TO PRESIDENTIAL KINSHIP SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE AUTHORITIES OR TO THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF.

3. COMMENT: A FORMAL INSTRUCTION PROHIBITING OFFICIAL FAVORITISM TOWARD THE PRESIDENT'S FAMILY IS, OF COURSE, A MEANS OF REMOVING SOME OF THE STEAM FROM THIS FAMILIAR POLITICAL ISSUE BEFORE THE GOI ENTERS THE TENSE ELECTORAL PERIOD. IT IS ALSO, HOWEVER, AN INDICATION THAT THIS STEAM HAS BEGUN TO RING ALARM BELLS IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. SUHARTO HAS SELDOM PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED CRITICISM OF THIS NATURE. THE PROMINENT, OFFICIAL NATURE OF THIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SUGGESTS THAT HE AND HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATES VIEW EXPLOITATION OF THIS ISSUE AS A CLEAR THREAT TO THEIR GOALS IN THE 1977 NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

NEWSOM

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Type: TE
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